

consumers who have been harmed by illegal practices.

I do not view optional federal chartering as a means to escape vigorous state regulation of the insurance industry. The last thing I want is to encourage a "race to the bottom," as state and federal regulators compete for the participation of insurance companies by progressively weakening the quality and effectiveness of their oversight. I have indicated to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners that this bill should not be used as an excuse to weaken existing state consumer protections, or to scuttle attempts to improve these protections.

Establishment of an optional federal charter is intended to provide for a strong, efficient, and effective insurance regulatory system. Providing for Federal oversight of the insurance industry will lead to a healthy regulatory competition that can enhance efficiency, spur innovation and expand consumer protection in a way that will benefit both the insurance industry and its customers.

Mr. Speaker, the current, state-based system of insurance regulation is inadequate—and it is in the best interests of insurers and their consumers that it be augmented. Failure to enhance insurance regulation will keep in place a system that could threaten the viability of the insurance industry in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking this important step toward facilitating the modernization of the insurance industry. It is decades long overdue.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO CHINA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that President Bush will be making a state visit to the People's Republic of China in late February.

As Secretary of State Colin Powell has said, the United States and China have many common interests. Among several large and continuing disagreements are religious freedom and the issue of Taiwan. I hope that President Bush will urgently raise the issues of freedom of religion and also stand firm on the issue of Taiwan in his discussions with the Chinese.

According to a report in yesterday's Washington Post, Chinese government documents show detailed efforts on the part of the Communist leadership to target religions including the use of secret agents to infiltrate Protestant religious groups, crushing underground Catholic churches, and the use of force against the banned Fulan Gong spiritual movement.

It is nothing less than a nationwide campaign to stamp out religion so that all the Chinese people can worship is the state. When Secretary Powell appeared before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee yesterday, he stated that when the United States and China have disagreements over religious freedom, "we do not hold back our criticism." It is therefore imperative for President Bush to speak out loudly and strongly against this denial of this basic human right—freedom of religion—when he is in China next week.

Regarding Taiwan, the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have been maintaining strong relations for decades. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and Taiwan, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of the United States. In the wake of September 11, Taiwan shared our mourning and its government ordered all flags lowered at half staff for two days. Taiwan stands with the United States on nearly all issues including safeguarding human rights and fighting terrorism around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is not an issue that divides the United States from China. As long as we stand firm on our principles of providing what Taiwan needs militarily, there will be stability in the Taiwan Strait and that is in everyone's best interests.

I wish President Bush best of luck in his journey to China.

RECOGNITION OF MS. ROSEANNE LUTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Roseanne Luth of San Diego, California. I would like to join with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in honoring her as the recipient of the inaugural Joseph L. Hertel Memorial Award. This award was inspired by Joseph Hertel and is a tribute to his exceptional life and his courageous battle against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Roseanne Luth is a successful business owner in San Diego. Roseanne was the first elected president of the 70-year-old Executive Association and the San Diego Book of Lists ranks her custom research company, Luth Research, among the top 25 San Diego Women-Owned Businesses. She also served a five-year term as a board member of the San Diego Better Business Bureau and served as the Bureau's first woman chairman in 1998. In addition, to being an extraordinarily successful entrepreneur she is also an asset to the community.

I would like to wish Ms. Luth continued success as she continues to team with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and her brother, Bob Baker, to work towards the elimination of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

WRITING OF ASHLEY HECKER

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me today to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the writings of Ms. Ashley Hecker. Ashley is a fifth grade student at Doolittle Elementary School in Cheshire, Connecticut. She composed this poignant poem just moments after the terrorist attack on September 11th.

WE STAND STRONG

As the cry of American reaches my ears

I must try to hold back my tears.

The plane crashed along with the crew

You may have lost someone too.

Under the rubble some survived

Sadly, many died.

Your heart may hurt but do not blame

Don't give into this twisted game.

New York will never be the same,

The terrorists will live with a life of shame.

Please don't give up on the Red, White and

Blue

We'll keep on fighting through and through.

Ashley's poem came to my attention shortly after Veterans Affairs Commissioner Eugene A. Migliaro Jr. awarded her a citation for her "dedication, expression and patriotic views."

Mr. Speaker, it is both a personal pleasure and privilege to honor Ashley Hecker, a young lady who's writings exemplify the American spirit.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPERATION COOKIE BAKE

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and thoughtful consideration of many of my constituents for their involvement in organizing and carrying out a mass donation of baked goods, "Operation Cookie Bake", for the active duty, reserves and civilian employees at Travis Air Force Base in Vacaville, California.

Operation Cookie Bake, originally sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 165 of Vacaville, was created as one way in which the local community could show support for the hardworking men and women who defend our freedom around the world and at home. On October 22, 2001, the community hosted the first phase of Operation Cookie Bake, resulting in the donation of twenty-one large and medium sized boxes or approximately 5,000 cookies and another 1,500 brownies, fudge and other treats. The second phase of Operation Cookie Bake on December 11, 2001, produced over 10,000 cookies and 3,000 brownies, fudge and breads, or approximately 800 individual bags of goodies.

I would like to recognize the hard work of so many of my constituents who have truly made me proud: the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 165 who sponsored the first phase of the project and supported it; as well as the ladies of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 84 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Unit 7244; the employees, students and members of Sutter Health, Central Billing Office, Meek's Lumber, St. Mary's Parish, Rainbow Girls, Vacaville Bible Church, Boy Scout Troop 195, Girl Scout Troops 80 and 93, Vanden High School Interact Club, Will C. Wood Culinary Club, Faith Academy, Xi Tau Delta of Beta Sigma Phi, American Legion Auxiliary 550 of Vallejo, American Legion Post 165, Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84, United Veterans Memorial Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7244.

I would also like to recognize the Veteran Liaison for the 60th Air Wing, Airman first Class Brooke Gardner, for her efforts in facilitating the smooth operation and delivery of the

donations, and Captain Christopher Stratford, Executive for the Director of Staffs office at Travis Air Force Base, who helped coordinate the delivery of these gifts for the troops. In addition, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for Kelli Germeraad for her coordination of the entire project; without her countless hours dedicated to this endeavor, this venture would not have succeeded.

TRIBUTE TO NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives an event that will be held in Newark, New Jersey, a Tribute to Negro League Baseball. Six months before the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, on April 12, 1861, two Black baseball teams played in Brooklyn, New York. Throughout the 1860s amateur Black baseball clubs sprang up around the Northeast and Midwest. Players for the Mutuals of Washington, DC included Black Activist Frederick Douglass' sons, Charles and Fred.

The first all Black professional baseball team was composed in 1885 of employees of the Argyle Hotel in Babylon, New York and in 1883, Fleet Walker, a catcher, signed with the Toledo Blue Stockings along with his brother Welday. The Blue Stockings then joined the American Association, which was considered a major league, thereby making the Walkers the only Black players to play in the major leagues until Jackie Robinson in 1947. In 1886, the Southern League of Colored Base Ballists became the first Negro League with teams in Memphis, Jacksonville, Savannah, Atlanta, Charleston and New Orleans. In 1900 only five professional Black baseball teams existed: the Genuine Cuban Giants, the Cuban X Giants, the Norfolk Red Stockings, the Chicago Unions and the Columbia Giants. By 1910, there would be more than 60 professional Negro teams barnstorming the country. During 1902, in an attempt to circumvent the color barrier and get infielder Charlie Grant on his team, Baltimore Orioles manager John McGraw changed Giant's name to Charlie Tokohama and tried to pass him off as a full blooded Cherokee Indian until his plan was exposed by Chicago White Sox owner Charles Comiskey. Future Hall of Famer, pitcher Rube Foster, went 51-4 for the Philadelphia Giants in 1905. In an exhibition game against the Philadelphia As, Foster beat 26 games winner Rube Waddell and became known as the "colored Rube Waddell." On February 14, 1920, Rube Foster organized a meeting in Kansas City of owners of several Black touring teams. The owners organized the first successful Black professional league, the Negro National League, which was comprised of the Chicago American Giants, the Chicago Giants, the Dayton Marcos, the Detroit Stars, the Indianapolis ABC's the Kansas City Monarchs, the St. Louis Giants and the Cuban Stars. Foster became the league's president and members agreed to honor each other's player contracts, which brought stability and organization to

Black baseball. In 1924, the pennant winners of the two Black leagues met in the first Negro World Series with the Kansas City Monarchs defeating Hillsdale in 10 games. In 1926, thirty years before Don Larson's perfect game, Red Griens of the Atlantic City Bacharach's pitched a no-hitter in game three of the Negro World Series against the Chicago American Giants. In 1930, five years before the major leagues turned on the lights, the Kansas City Monarchs became the first team to regularly play night baseball with a portable lighting system. In 1937, the Negro American League was formed and the Kansas City Monarchs won five of the first six Negro American League pennants. The Negro National League Homestead Grays won eight pennants between 1937-45 with John Gibson, the greatest hitter of the Negro Leagues (962 career homeruns). In 1945 Kansas City Monarchs rookie short-stop Jackie Robinson signed to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers at \$600 per month, thereby breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. Since baseball's integration from 1947 to 1953, six of the seven National League Rookies of the Year were former Negro League players, including Jack Robinson, Don Newcombs, Sam Jethrol, Willie Mays, Joe Black and Jim Gilliam. After the integration of baseball, the Negro leagues began to decline in 1948, due to the fact that its best players were now signing with major league teams. The Negro American League finally dissolved in 1963. Sixteen Negro League baseball stars have been inducted into the Hall of Fame including former Newark Eagles and local Major League players, such as Larry Dolby, Monte Irvin and Ray Dandridge. From 1920-1955 over 30 communities located throughout the Midwest, Northeast and the South were home franchises comprised of the Negro National League, Eastern Colored League, East-West League, Negro Southern League and the Negro American League. The City of Newark, New Jersey was the home of the Newark Browns, Newark Dodgers, Newark Eagles and the Newark Stars. Of all the Newark teams, the Newark Eagles were the most memorable. The team was managed by a woman, Mrs. Effa Manley, who along with her husband Abe Manley owned the team. They were also entrepreneurs, owning Club 83 on New Street in Newark. I had the privilege of attending Newark Eagles games as a youngster. The games were very memorable occasions.

There was great excitement in the air when the Newark Eagles won the 1946 Negro League World Championship over the Kansas City Monarchs in the seventh and final game of the series held at Newark's Ruppert Stadium on September 29. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pride that we remember and pay tribute to the athletes of Negro League Baseball during Black History Month. I know my colleagues here in the United States Congress join me in sending best wishes as the City of Newark pays homage to those who made history and made us proud.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Shays-Meehan substitute and want to explain one provision in the bill which will clarify campaign finance law with respect to contributions to federal candidates by U.S. nationals.

American Samoa is the only jurisdiction under U.S. authority in which a person can be born with the status of U.S. national. A national is a person who owes his or her allegiance to the United States, but is not a citizen. U.S. nationals travel with U.S. passports and are eligible for permanent residence in the United States. They are not foreign citizens or foreign nationals. In fact, they have most of the same privileges and immunities as U.S. citizens. However, federal campaign law was enacted before American Samoa had representation in the U.S. Congress and current law fails to address the issue of contributions from U.S. nationals.

Mr. Chairman, federal campaign law currently specifies that U.S. citizens and permanent resident foreign nationals may make contributions to candidates for federal office. Although there is an advisory opinion from the Federal Election Commission which interprets current law to allow U.S. nationals to contribute to federal elections, a federal court could at any time interpret the law to exclude U.S. nationals. Our failure to amend current law could also be interpreted to mean that Congress originally intended to prohibit U.S. nationals from contributing to federal elections.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe it was or is the intent of Congress, or the law, to exclude U.S. nationals from contributing to federal campaigns. Congress simply enacted a law before American Samoa had representation in the U.S. Congress. Now it is time to amend the law to specifically address the issue of U.S. nationals. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this technical change in any bill which moves forward.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, campaigns should be about the competition of ideas, not the competition of money between huge corporate donors and special interests. Allowing